

LISTING OF CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

5 1. (Currently Amended) A system for software module to module communication, comprising:

 a module interface capable of receiving a ~~message~~ file system request configured in a first file system format based on a first operating system, the module interface further capable of translating the received ~~message~~ file system request into a second file system
10 format based on a second operating system;

 a first software module in communication with the module interface, the first software module capable of communicating ~~messages~~ file system requests configured in the first file system format to the module interface; and

 a second software module in communication with the module interface, the
15 second software module capable of communicating ~~messages~~ file system requests configured in the second file system format to the module interface, wherein the first software module is capable of communicating with the second software module via the module interface to facilitate data storage.

20 2. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the module interface is further capable of translating the received ~~message~~ file system request into a third file system format.

 3. (Original) A system as recited in claim 2, wherein the second software
25 module is capable of providing a first function related to a first hardware type.

4. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 3, wherein a third software module capable of communicating ~~messages~~ file system requests configured in the third file system format to the module interface and capable of providing a second
5 function related to a second hardware type can replace the second software module, and wherein the first software module is capable of communicating with the third software module via the module interface.

5. (Original) A system as recited in claim 5, wherein the first hardware
10 type uses a SCSI protocol, and wherein the second hardware type uses a Fibre Channel protocol.

6. (Currently Amended) An independent storage node, comprising:
a processor;
15 transport hardware in communication with the processor, the transport hardware being capable of communicating data via a transport connection; and
modular storage software executing on the processor, the modular storage software comprising a plurality of software modules and a module interface that allows dynamic binding of the software modules, each of the plurality of software modules being
20 defined to communicate a file system request to the module interface, the module interface being defined to provide file system request translation between the plurality of software modules ~~wherein the modular storage software is capable of executing on a plurality of processor types by using particular software modules related to a specific processor type.~~

7. (Currently Amended) An independent storage node as recited in claim 6,
wherein the modular storage software is configured to execute on the specific processor
type by ~~replacing~~ using a particular software module ~~included in the modular storage~~
~~software with a new software module related to~~ compatible with the specific processor
5 type.

8. (Currently Amended) An independent storage node as recited in claim 6,
wherein ~~the new software module~~ each of the plurality of software modules is capable of
communicating with the processor via the module interface.

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